THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

Copy No.

TOP SECRET

C.O.S. (46) 35th Meeting

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

MINUTES of Meeting held on WEDNESDAY, 6TH MARCH, 1946, at 11 a.m.

PRESENT

Field Marshal Lord Alanbrooke, Chief of the Imperial General Staff. (In the Chair)

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Cunningham of Hyndhope, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff. Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Lord Tedder, Chief of the Air Staff.

SECRETARIAT

Major General Sir Leslie C. Hollis Colonel C. R. Price Group Captain D. C. Stapleton Major A. H. Bishop

1. B.C.O.F. - FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

(Previous Reference: C.O.S.(46) 34th Mtg. Min. 10)

THE COMMITTEE invited the War Office, in consultation with the Admiralty, Air Ministry and Treasury, to take into account in their examination of the financial arrangements for the B.C.O.F. a further telegram from the British/Indian element of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Australia on this subject.

+ PACCOS 8 ·

2. TRANSFER OF COMMAND OF FORCES IN GREECE

(Previous Reference: C.O.S.(46)4th Mtg., Minute 7)

LORD TEDDER handed round copies of a draft telegram to A.F.H.J. stating that, in order to start reducing our commitments and staff in Italy, it had been decided to transfer responsibility for the British forces in Greece to the Commanders-in-Chief, Middle East, with effect from the 15th March.

LORD ALANBROOKE agreed, and handed round copies of a draft supplementary telegram suggesting consequential amendments to the instructions contained in telegrams Nos. COSMED 248 and 249.

THE COMMITTEE:

- (a) Agreed that the transfer of responsibility for British forces in Greece to the Commanders-in-Chief, Middle East, should take effect from the 15th March, 1946.
- (b) Approved the despatch of the draft telegrams put forward by C.A.S. and C.I.G.S.

x Sent as COSMED 250 and OZ.1017

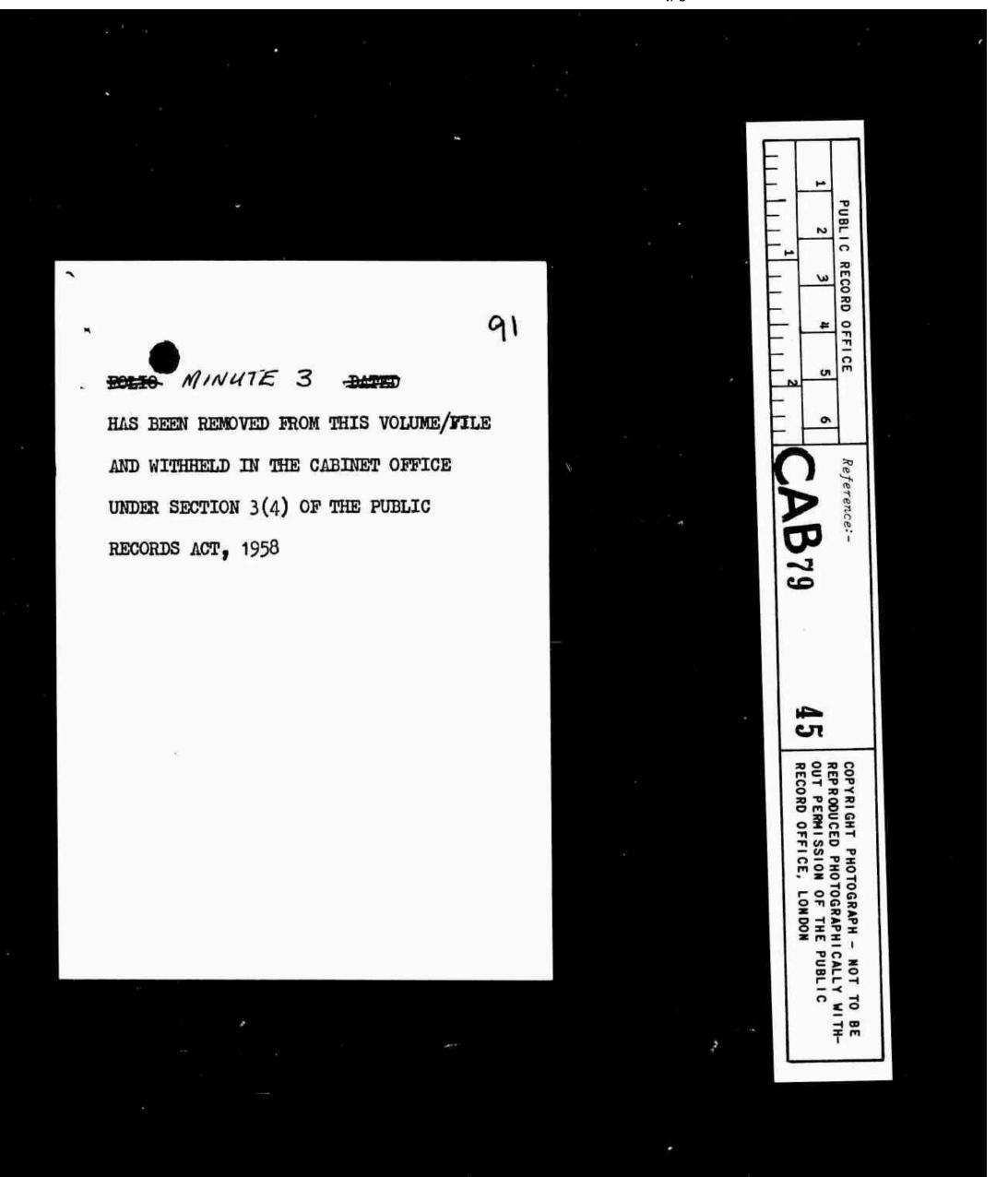
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

1 2 3 4 5 6

CAB79

COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITH-OUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

UT



4. VICTORY CELEBRATIONS - MILITARY PARADES

LORD ALANBROOKE said that the Adjutant General had raised certain points which affected the other Services regarding the organisation of the Victory Parades on June 8th. He suggested that the Chiefs of Staff should discuss these problems with the Adjutant General at their meeting the following Wednesday, 13th March, and that Lord Tortal of Hungerford, who was being invited to take part in the Parades, should be asked to come to the meeting.

THE COMMITTEE:

Instructed the Secretary to invite Lord Portal of Hungerford and the Adjutant General to their meeting the following Wednesday, as proposed by the C.I.G.S.

5. B.C.O.F. - DIRECTIVE TO COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

(Previous Reference: C.O.S.(46) 34th Mtg. Min. 6)

THE COMMITTEE considered the following telegrams -

- (i) Nos. 105 107 from the Government of Australia, giving the text of a draft directive to the Commander-in-Chief, B.C.O.F., which was being considered by the Commonwealth Government, and on which the latter had requested the comments of the other Governments concerned.
- (ii) JCOSA 43 & 44 giving the observations of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Australia on certain paragraphs in the directive.
- (iii) PACCOS 6 from the British/Indian element of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Australia, reporting, with reference to the draft directive, that the Australians intended to appoint General Northcott to act as the Senior Commander of the Australian Contingent of B.C.O.F. in addition to his duties as Commander-in-Chief, B.C.O.F.

With regard to the draft directive, the Chiefs of Staff expressed the view that in its present form, it was too long and contained too much detail. The instructions regarding financial, disciplinary, etc., responsibilities would have been better included in Appendices.

COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WI OUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

UT

It was agreed that the directive should be referred to the Joint Planning Staff for examination. At the same time it was recognised that certain aspects of the draft directive concerned a number of Government Departments. The Joint Planning Staff should refer those matters outside their compass for examination by the relevant departments concerned.

With regard to the points raised in PACCOS 6, the Chiefs of Staff were strongly of the opinion that it would be most unsatisfactory for General Northcott to act as Senior Commander of the Australian Contingent in addition to his duties as Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth Force. The British element, J.C.O.S.A. should be instructed to press strongly for the appointment of a separate Commander for the Australian Contingent, and the Joint Planning Staff should draft a reply to PACCOS 6 putting forward any additional arguments they could in favour of separate Commanders. The question of whether or not to raise this problem on a Governmental level could be considered if necessary in the light of the Australian relations to this renewed approach.

THE COMMITTEE:

- (a) Instructed the Joint Planning Staff, in consultation with the Dop rthents concerned, to examine the proposed directive to the Commander-in-Chief, B.C.O.F. and its annexures, and to prepare a draft reply to the Australian Government telegrams.
- (b) Instructed the Joint Clanning Staff to prepare, as a matter of urgency, a draft reply to PACCOS 6, instructing the British/Indian element, JCOSA, to press the Australians to appoint a separate Commander of the Australian Contingent.

							E	E
RECORD OFFICE, LONGON	H	CADCO			-	-		
OUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC	<u>ک</u>) > D 70	6	OI	*	w	2	-
COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO BE		Reference:-		301	RD OF	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	UBL (

)1

6. B.C.O.F. - FRESS AND PUBLICITY

(Previous Reference: C.O.S.(46) 31st Mtg. Min. 18)

THE SECRETARY had been informed that the Director of Public Relations, War Office, had agreed with his opposite numbers in the Admiralty and Air Ministry, that so far as press and publicity matters for the B.C.O.F. and J.C.O.S.A. were concerned, he would take action on behalf of the three Service Ministries. It was intended that this arrangement would also apply to all future matters of this kind in connection with Japan.

7. VENEZIA GIULIA - ISSUE OF JOINT STATEMENT

A telegram from SACMED to the Combined Chiefs of Staff, requesting the issue of a joint statement to be made by the British and U.S. Governments that it was their firm intention to maintain their present position in Zone 'A' of Venezia Giulia until an agreed political settlement had been reached and ratified by them, has been referred to the Foreign Office, with a request that they will advise the Chiefs of Staff on the instructions to be sent to the Joint Staff Mission as regards the reply to be sent to General Morgan. The Joint Staff Mission have subsequently asked for instructions.

+ NAF 1118 ≠ JSM 193

8. TERMINATION OF SUPREME ALLIED COMMAND IN S.E.A.C. TRANSFER OF CIVIL RESPONSIBILITIES

The War Office have been invited, in consultation with the other departments concerned, to deal with a telegram from Admiral Mountbatten on the matters which he proposes to transfer to the Special Commissioner, the Governor General or the Colonial Governors upon termination of the Supreme Allied Command in South East Asia.

M SEACOS 653

S

9. CLEARANCE OF MINES IN S.E.A.C.

(Previous Reference: C.O.S.(46) 31st Mtg. Min. 6)

THE SECRETARY had been informed by telephone of the approval of the War Office and Air Ministry to the despatch of a telegram to S.A.C.S.E.A. prepared by the Admiralty at the request of the Burma Office, asking when it was expected that the port of Moulmein would be cleared of mines in view of its importance as a rice exporting port. The telegram had therefore been despatched.

≠ Sent as COSSEA 481

10. CAPACITY OF TROOPSHIPS EAST OF SUEZ

C.S.A. (46) 18

(Previous Reference: C.O.S.(46) 27th Mtg. Min. 10)

THE SECRETARY had been informed by telephone of the approval of the Chiefs of Staff to a report by the Principal Administrative Officers Committee recommending the despatch of a telegram to General Auchinleck agreeing that in view of the approaching hot weather, he might revert to "East of Suez capacity" for all U.K. bound troopships. The telegram had therefore been despatched.

, Sent as COS(INDIA)44

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

1 2 3 4 5 6 CAB79

Reference:
Reference:
REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WILLIAM OUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

11. FORTIFICATIONS IN SICILY AND SARDINIA

c.o.s.(46) 64

THE COMMITTEE had before them a letter from the Foreign Office enquiring whether the Chiefs of Staff were still of the same opinion with regard to the prohibition of naval, military and air force installations in Sicily and Sardinia, as expressed in their "brief" prepared in September of last year for the guidance of the Foreign Secretary in discussions on the Peace Treaty with Italy. The Foreign Office suggested that in view of the information now available with regard to the installations on these islands, the Chiefs of Staff might agree that their requirements would be met by the prohibition of construction of new installations, together with such reduction of the present defences as the other delegations could be pursuaded to accept.

There was general agreement that the views of the Foreign Office should be accepted.

LORD CUNNINGHAM circulated the text of the draft Article 31 of the Italian Peace Treaty, which he suggested conformed more exactly with the views of the Chiefs of Staff.

There was general agreement with the text of the draft Article 31 of the Italian Peace Treaty as circulated by the First Sea Lord.

THE COMMITTEE: -

- (a) Agreed with the views expressed by the Foreign Office.
- (b) Instructed the Secretary to inform the
 Foreign Office of their agreement, and
 to state at the same time that the
 text of the draft Article 31 of the
 Italian Peace Treaty was acceptable from
 the military point of view.

1 A CORD OFFICE, LOW	2 3 4 5 6	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE Reference:-	COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WI OUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON	45	Rej
----------------------	-----------	----------------------------------	---	----	-----

12. UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION

THE COMMITTEE considered a letter from C.-in-C. India enquiring whether any proposals had yet been formulated for the representation of India on the Military Staff Committee of the Security Council, having regard to the fact that India was represented by its own separate delegation at the United Nations Conference in San Francisco and occupied a dominant position in the Indian Ocean area.

LORD ALANBROOKE said that the suggestion put forward by C.-in-C. India for Indian representation on the Military Staff Committee was not possible as, even if India was granted Dominion status, the United Nations Charter laid down that the Military Staff Committee would be composed - for the present anyway - of representatives of the "Big Five".

LORD CUNNINGHAM agreed with the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, and pointed out that India could, however, be represented on the Security Council. He suggested that it might be valuable if the Dominions, including India, were invited to send staff officers to work with the British representatives on the Military Staff Committee in an advisory capacity. He recalled that the Australians had already raised on a governmental level, during the recent conference, the question of being consulted by the Military Staff Committee on Far Eastern problems, and he suggested that if the Indian Government held the same view, they also should raise it on a governmental level.

THE COMMITTEE:-

Instructed the Secretary to reply* to the letter from C.-in-C. India on the lines expressed by them in discussion.

* Annex II (To follow)

		2	-	-	-	. -
)	•	U	+	w	2	-

COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WI OUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

-8-

13. TRILS"E: USE ..S . MI IT RY SUPPLY B.SE

c.o.s.(46) 65 (0)

THE COMMITTLE had before them a letter from the Foreign Office commenting on a telegram from General Morgan and recommending that the Chiefs of Staff represent strongly to the Combined Chiefs of Staff the importance of finding a solution to General Morgan's difficulties, which would not in any way entail the abandonment of our position in Trieste.

LORD ALAMBROOKE said that the Foreign Office did not represent the situation fully as they gave the impression that General Morgan was abandoning the use of Trieste, which was not the case. Because of the recent manpower cuts in service strength, General Morgan found it impossible to retain duplicate port organisations at Trieste and Venice for the handling of military stores. There was no question of ceasing to use Trieste, which would continue to be utilised for the import of coal and P.O.L. partly because of its suitability for these commodities, but chiefly because the Supreme Commander realised the need to retain military control of the port. Triestc would, therefore, continue to be used at full capacity in any case for the next few months. Meanwhile, expansion at Venice would be little, but it would certainly be necessary to maintain a shadow port handling organisation at Venice in case trouble occurred at Trieste involving the closure of that port. Any commitment involved in retaining an organisation at Venice would be more than off-set by the large reductions made over Italy as a whole. It was his opinion, therefore, that as the manpower reductions were inevitable, General Morgan must be given a free hand to achieve them and to run his administration in the most economical way.

LOAD T.DDER agreed with these views and said that the Chiefs of Staff should not, therefore, make representations to the Combined Chiefs of Staff to alter the recommendations made by General Morgan in his telegram.

THE COMMITTEE:-

- (a) Agreed with the views expressed by the Chief of the Imperial General Staff above;
- (b) Instructed the Secretary to informatine Foreign Office accordingly.

+ N.F 1115 # Annex III

14. BURM. - CHINESE INCURSIONS

C.O.S.(46) 66

(Previous Reference: C.O.S. (46) 34th Mtg., Item 12)

THE COMMITTE had before them a letter from the Foreign Office asking if the Chiefs of Staff would issue instructions to General Carton do Wiart to raise the matter of Chinese incursions in the Myitkyina area orally with Generalissimo Chiang-Kai-Shek on the lines suggested by the Foreign Office.

COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WI OUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

-9-

LORD CUNNINGH.M agreed with the views expressed by the Foreign Office and circulated a draft telegram to General Carton de Miart asking him to seek an interview with the Generalissimo on this subject, and to press that orders should be issued for the withdrawal of Chinese troops from this area as soon as possible.

LORD ALANBROOKE suggested that it would also be expedient to ask Admiral Mountbatten for his ap reciation on the situation in North East Burma, and informing him that representations were being made to the Chinese Authorities. Meanwhile he should take no action against the Chinese until the results of diplomatic action in Chung King were known. A draft telegram was circulated to this effect.

THE COMMITTEE:-

- (a) A proved the draft telegram to General Carton de Wiart circulated by the First Sea Lord, and instructed the Secretary to arrange for its despatch; +
- (b) Approved the draft telegram circulated by the Chief of the Imperial General Staff to Admiral Mountbatton, and instructed the Secretary to arrange for its despatch*;
- (c) Instructed the Secretary to notify the Foreign Office of the action taken above.

 + Sent as OZ.1015

 # Sent as COSSL. 483

15. B.C.O.F. - CONNECTING AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES

In anticipation of instructions, the Air Ministry have been requested to examine, in consultation with the departments concerned, a telegram from BIEJCOSA on the air lift requirements for B.C.O.F., and to prepare a draft reply on the receipt of a full report to be forwarded by JCOSA when completed.

≠ BRINDEL 721 (IZ.1312)

Offices of the Cabinet and Minister of Defence, S.W.1.

6TH TARCH, 1946.

COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITH OUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

UT

100

ANNEX I

Copy of a letter (Reference C.O.S.261/6)

dated 6th March, 1946, from the Secretary,
Chiefs of Staff Committee, to the Foreign Office

푯 Æ

In reply to your letter dated 2nd March, 1946, with regard to the fortifications in Sicily and Sardinia, the Chiefs of Staff at their mosting this morning agreed with the suggestion which you made in paragraph 5 of your letter, and instructed me to inform you accordingly.

In addition, the Chiefs of Staff had before them the text of Irticle 31 of the Italian Peace Treaty as at present drafted, and they instructed me to inform you that they were in full agreement with this draft and that it correctly expressed their views.

I attach a copy of the text which the Chiefs of Staff had before them.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFI CE AB79 CT

COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITH-OUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

-11-

ANNEX II

COPY OF LETTER (REF. COS.266/6) DATED 7TH MARCH, 1946, TO GENERAL AUCHINLECK

In reply to your letter (C-in-C. Sectt/274) dated 20th February 1946 to the Chiefs of Staff, on the representation of India on the Military Staff Committee, the Chiefs of Staff have instructed me to express their views as follows.

- 2. The Chiefs of Staff have already given instructions to their representatives on the Military Staff Committee on the question of Dominion co-ordination. They consider that, since the Dominions and India are regarded by U.N.O. as separate sovereign states, the British representatives should seek guidance, on all matters relating to Dominion military interests, from the British Chiefs of Staff; and that London should be regarded as the co-ordinating centre for Dominion interests as a whole. Furthermore, as the United Nations Charter lays down that the Military Staff Committee shall be composed of representatives of the Big Five, it is not possible for India, even when granted Dominion status, to have a seat on the Committee.
- 3. The Chiefs of Staff are aware that occasions will probably arise when India and the Dominions will have to be formally represented at meetings of the Military Staff Committee. The Security Council have at present under consideration a draft Statute which, if approved, makes it clear that states other than the Big Five who attend meetings of the Military Staff Committee shall not be considered as members of the Committee, and shall only participate in those parts of the meeting to which they are specifically invited by the Military Staff Committee.
- 4. On the other hand, India may later be required to take a predominant part in the provision of forces in the Far East to be placed at the disposal of the Security Council; but the Chiefs of Staff consider that some months will elapse before sufficient progress has been made to warrant India maintaining a permanent military delegation at the United Nations Organisation. It would seem, therefore, more suitable for India to send officers to the headquarters of the United Nations Organisation when their attendance is specifically required. More permanent arrangements could be settled when a clear picture has been obtained of the sort of work which the Military Staff Committee are likely to undertake in the future.
- 5. During the recent meetings in London, the Australians raised on a Governmental level the question of the Military Staff Committee consulting Australian Military experts when Far Eastern questions were being considered. If, therefore, India feels strongly on the same point, the Chiefs of Staff suggest that it should be raised on a Government level rather than through military •hannels.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference:
1 2 3 4 5 6 CAB79

REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WI OUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

101

ANNEX II

COPY OF LETTER (REF. COS.266/6) DATED 7TH MARCH, 1946, TO GENERAL AUCHINLECK

In reply to your letter (C-in-C. Sectt/274) dated 20th February 1946 to the Chiefs of Staff, on the representation of India on the Military Staff Committee, the Chiefs of Staff have instructed me to express their views as follows.

- 2. The Chiefs of Staff have already given instructions to their representatives on the Military Staff Committee on the question of Dominion co-ordination. They consider that, since the Dominions and India are regarded by U.N.O. as separate sovereign states, the British representatives should seek guidance, on all matters relating to Dominion military interests, from the British Chiefs of Staff; and that London should be regarded as the co-ordinating centre for Dominion interests as a whole. Furthermore, as the United Nations Charter lays down that the Military Staff Committee shall be composed of representatives of the Big Five, it is not possible for India, even when granted Dominion status, to have a seat on the Committee.
- 3. The Chiefs of Staff are aware that occasions will probably arise when India and the Dominions will have to be formally represented at meetings of the Military Staff Committee. The Security Council have at present under consideration a draft Statute which, if approved, makes it clear that states other than the Big Five who attend meetings of the Military Staff Committee shall not be considered as members of the Committee, and shall only participate in those parts of the meeting to which they are specifically invited by the Military Staff Committee.
- 4. On the other hand, India may later be required to take a predominant part in the provision of forces in the Far East to be placed at the disposal of the Security Council; but the Chiefs of Staff consider that some months will elapse before sufficient progress has been made to warrant India maintaining a permanent military delegation at the United Nations Organisation. It would seem, therefore, more suitable for India to send officers to the headquarters of the United Nations Organisation when their attendance is specifically required. More permanent arrangements could be settled when a clear picture has been obtained of the sort of work which the Military Staff Committee are likely to undertake in the future.
- 5. During the recent meetings in London, the Australians raised on a Governmental level the question of the Military Staff Committee consulting Australian Military experts when Far Eastern questions were being considered. If, therefore, India feels strongly on the same point, the Chiefs of Staff suggest that it should be raised on a Government level rather than through military •hannels.

